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An
Inaugural Essay.

On
Gastritis.

By

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of

of Virginia.

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Gastritis

The impatience and influence which the stomach exercises over the other parts of the body, from its intimate connections, must ever render the diseases of this organ peculiarly interesting to the Physician and speculative Pathologist.

From its extreme sensibility and its communication with the rest of the system generally, we cannot but recognize the powerful influence a diseased state of this viscus must have over the health, and life, of an individual.

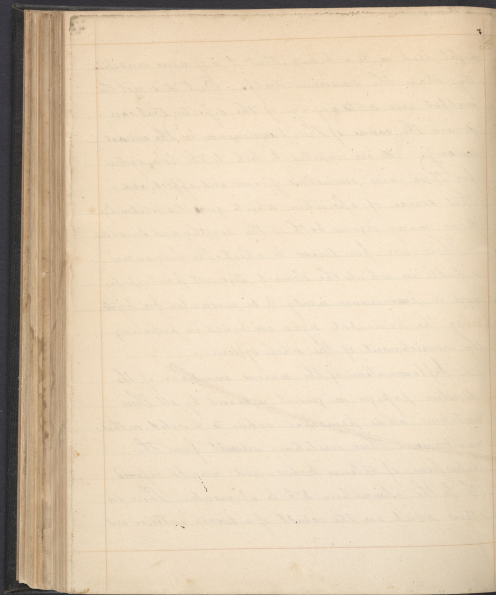
In examining the animated beings in all their various gradations, there is no viscus so constantly met with as the stomach and in fact there is no instance on record, where the stomach has been found wanting or something equivalent thereto.

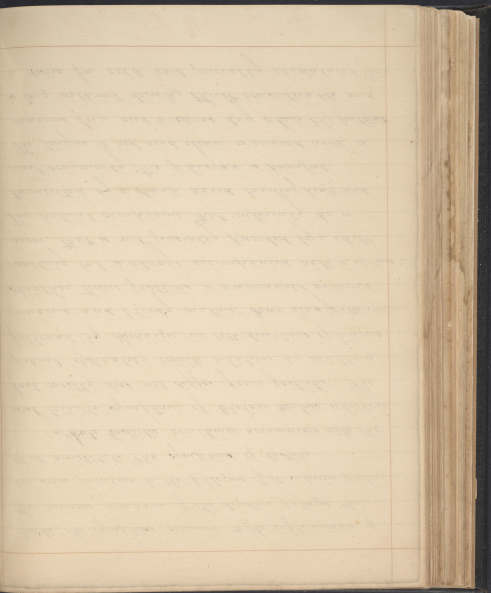
The human stomach though simple in its organization, is endued by nature, with the most complex properties, producing a centre of sympathies between our corporeal functions and mental faculties that

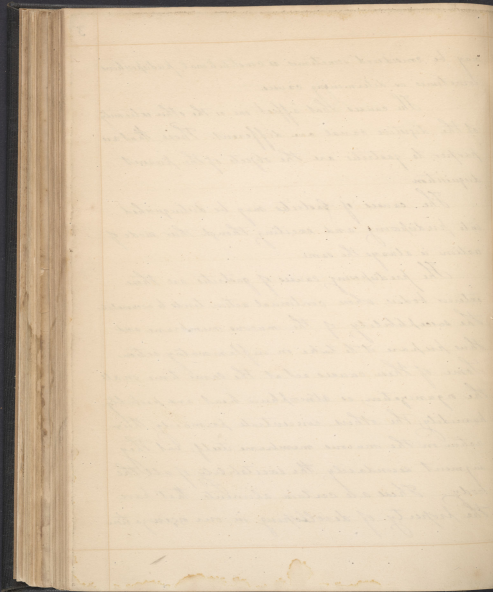
might lead us to a belief, that it is of nicer sensibility than the sensorium itself. But it is not the scalpel and scrutinizing eye of the dissector, that can discover the causes of this preeminence in the animal economy. We are compelled to look to the living system for those nice connections of cause and effect, and that source of association which gives it a relationship to so many organs both in the healthy and diseased state.

There are few diseases to which the human race is liable in which the stomach does not participate, and its preeminence is only to be accounted for, by its being the principal organ concerned in preparing the nourishment of the whole system.

Inflammation of the mucous membrane of the digestive passages in general is caused by all those irritations whose principal action is directed on that membrane. These irritations result from the impulsion of exterior bodies and may be referred 1st to the atmosphere. 2nd to aliments. There are others which are the result of a disease anterior and







may be considered sometimes as constitutional predispositions sometimes as determining causes.

The causes that affect one or the other extremity of the digestive canal are different. Those that are proper to gastritis are the objects of the present disquisition.

The causes of gastritis may be distinguished into predisposing and exciting though their mode of action is always the same.

The predisposing causes of gastritis are those exterior bodies, whose continual action tends to accumulate the susceptibility of the mucous membrane and thus prepare it to take on inflammatory action. Some of these causes act at the same time on all the organization, as atmospheric heat and probably humidity; the others concentrate primarily, their action on the mucous membrane itself, but they augment secondarily the excitability of all the body. These are certain aliments that have the property of developing in our organization

action than is necessary to maintain the general harmony

The exciting causes of gastritis, may be those that have been mentioned as predisposing causes which by the continuation of their action may give rise to inflammation of the stomach; but most frequently it is produced by some excesses in aliments or drinks or a fit of anger.

Corrosive poisons, contusions falls blows on the epigastrium may occasion gastritis without any predisposition but will develop the disease with more energy when the patient is already in a state of predisposition. Vomits and Purgatives also when the predisposition exists in a high degree injudiciously administered rarely fail to give rise to the disease.

There are some kinds of functions that under the stomach more susceptibility of becoming inflamed under the influence of different irritants such are in general chronic inflammation of other organs.

Besides the symptoms common to the inflammation of the mucous membrane of the digestive passages, there are some peculiar to the phlogosis of its superior portion that constitute the symptoms of Gastritis.

Acute Gastritis sometimes commences with the most terrible symptoms of Cholera Morbus which in fact, mostly does not differ from gastritis. The patient obstinately vomits whatever he swallows, followed by discharges in both directions of bilious mucous and bloody matters. Fever always attends. At other times gastritis is announced without vomiting but is always accompanied with a violent fever that is not generally preceded by a chill. The patient complains that internally he is tormented by a sharp acid burning heat, and most commonly the pharynx is painful.

The tongue is red and clean or covered with a mucous fur and becomes dry when the patient is long without drinks, thirst considerable and a desire for cold and generally acidulated fluids.

which are often retained, while all others are rejected by the stomach. Constipation exists if the mucous membrane of the intestines is sound or is but slightly affected, but if the colon be highly irritated, diarrhoea and tenesmus are attending symptoms. Pain is mostly felt in the epigastrium and hypochondria especially in the right side. These pains appear to be deeply planted and are frequently ~~exacerbated~~ exacerbated by pressure especially those of the hypochondria except when depressed with some force. They are often lancinating and accompanied with a sense of constriction. They diminish manifestly after the patient has swallowed cold and especially acid drinks.

At the end of some days the vomiting ceases though the ~~other~~ symptoms remain: sometimes it continues or returns in the course of the disease, and the patient complains of a continual nausea caused as it were by a round body, that has a tendency to -

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mount to the pharynx, and which painfully compresses the base of the chest. Each vomiting is followed by a temporary relief and the patient often anxiously demands the administration of an emetic.

Absolute impossibility of swallowing attributed by the patient to an obstacle situated at the bottom of the pharynx or top of the sternum, is to be regarded as displaying the disease in its greatest degree of intensity. It shows the stomach violently contracted, and in so irritable a condition that it refuses to dilate itself.

Such are the signs of gastritis that are to be drawn from an attentive examination of the functions of digestion. Many of them may be wanting. The principal one or the pain sometimes does not exist in gastritis the most intense. As the true diagnostic of disease can only result from the collection of all the attending train of symptoms; the sympathetic disturbances of other functions are to be particularly regarded.

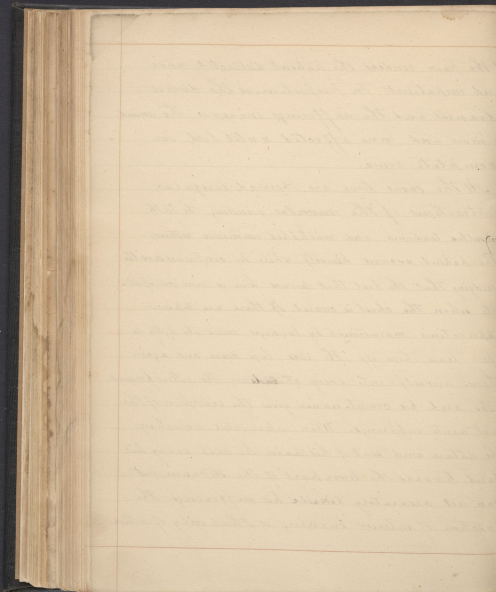
The spiritual life is a process of growth and development. It is a journey that begins with a sense of longing and ends with a state of fulfillment. The path is not always straight, but it is always forward. The challenges we face are not obstacles, but opportunities for growth. The more we struggle, the more we learn about ourselves and the world around us. The spiritual life is a journey of the heart, and the heart is the center of our being. It is the seat of our emotions, our thoughts, and our will. The spiritual life is a journey of the soul, and the soul is the immortal part of us. It is the part of us that is connected to the divine. The spiritual life is a journey of the spirit, and the spirit is the breath of life. It is the part of us that is alive and moving. The spiritual life is a journey of the mind, and the mind is the faculty of thought. It is the part of us that is capable of understanding and wisdom. The spiritual life is a journey of the body, and the body is the vessel of our existence. It is the part of us that is subject to the laws of nature. The spiritual life is a journey of the whole person, and the whole person is the sum of all these parts. It is the part of us that is unique and irreplaceable. The spiritual life is a journey of love, and love is the greatest of all virtues. It is the part of us that is capable of giving and receiving. The spiritual life is a journey of faith, and faith is the foundation of all belief. It is the part of us that is capable of trusting in the unseen. The spiritual life is a journey of hope, and hope is the light of the future. It is the part of us that is capable of believing in the best. The spiritual life is a journey of joy, and joy is the fruit of all good work. It is the part of us that is capable of experiencing the happiness of the heart. The spiritual life is a journey of peace, and peace is the stillness of the soul. It is the part of us that is capable of finding rest in the midst of the storm. The spiritual life is a journey of truth, and truth is the light that guides us. It is the part of us that is capable of seeing things as they are. The spiritual life is a journey of goodness, and goodness is the way of life. It is the part of us that is capable of doing what is right. The spiritual life is a journey of beauty, and beauty is the reflection of the divine. It is the part of us that is capable of appreciating the world around us. The spiritual life is a journey of power, and power is the ability to do what we want. It is the part of us that is capable of achieving our goals. The spiritual life is a journey of wisdom, and wisdom is the knowledge of the truth. It is the part of us that is capable of understanding the world. The spiritual life is a journey of love, and love is the greatest of all virtues. It is the part of us that is capable of giving and receiving. The spiritual life is a journey of faith, and faith is the foundation of all belief. It is the part of us that is capable of trusting in the unseen. The spiritual life is a journey of hope, and hope is the light of the future. It is the part of us that is capable of believing in the best. The spiritual life is a journey of joy, and joy is the fruit of all good work. It is the part of us that is capable of experiencing the happiness of the heart. The spiritual life is a journey of peace, and peace is the stillness of the soul. It is the part of us that is capable of finding rest in the midst of the storm. The spiritual life is a journey of truth, and truth is the light that guides us. It is the part of us that is capable of seeing things as they are. The spiritual life is a journey of goodness, and goodness is the way of life. It is the part of us that is capable of doing what is right. The spiritual life is a journey of beauty, and beauty is the reflection of the divine. It is the part of us that is capable of appreciating the world around us. The spiritual life is a journey of power, and power is the ability to do what we want. It is the part of us that is capable of achieving our goals. The spiritual life is a journey of wisdom, and wisdom is the knowledge of the truth. It is the part of us that is capable of understanding the world.

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The sympathetic disturbances that accompany acute gastritis are 1st as respects the head, the ~~affections~~ ^{affections} of the senses, and the movements of the muscles subject to the will.

Headache may exist but is not an essential symptom. Aberrations of the mind, at first slight, and corresponding to the periods of the most lively suffering, afterwards becoming constant but ~~they~~ occasionally ~~only~~ slight distractions, appear especially to belong to the character of this inflammation.

Patients are even it is true with as violent delirium as is met with in Typhus fever or in Phœnitis. But in those cases there is considerable analogy to those diseases as at the same ~~time~~ ^{time} the conjunctiva is injected, the eye inflamed and the whole Physiognomy is altered.

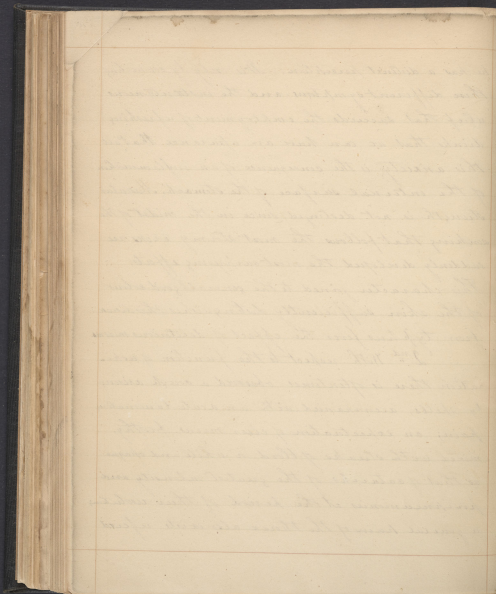
Sometimes the delirium is of a gay character; it is when gastritis is unaccompanied by local pain; but more frequently the violence



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of the pain renders the patient distracted, morose
and impatient. In proportion as the disease
advances and the sufferings increase, the mind
is more and more affected until lost in
complete coma.

At the same time are observed irregular
contractions of the muscles grinding the teeth,
subultus tendinum, and multiplied convulsive motions.

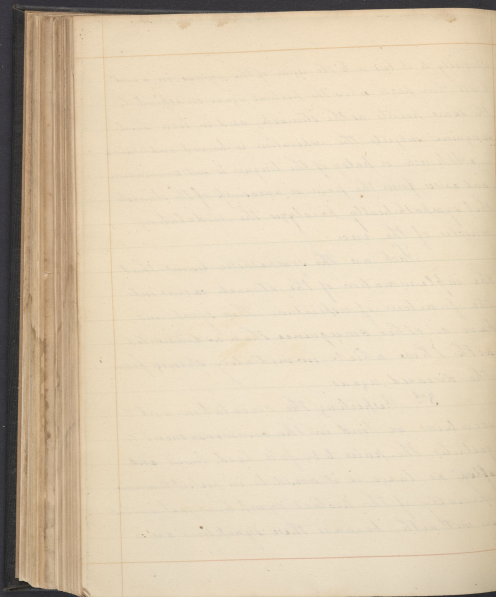
The patient uncovers himself while he continues sensible
alleging that the heat that devours him is more insupport-
able when the chest is covered. If there are topical
applications maintained by bandages round the body he
often tears them off. He rises up down and again
throws himself into every attitude. He utters frequent
sighs and his countenance gives the expression of the
most acute sufferings. When interrogated respecting
the nature and seat of his pain he will carry his
hand towards the lower part of the sternum but
can not accurately describe his sufferings. The
sensation of interior burning is that only of which



he has a distinct perception. It is only by connecting these different symptoms and the instantaneous relief that succeeds the employment of refreshing drinks that we can have an assurance that all this anxiety is the consequence of an inflammation of the internal surface of the stomach. Muscular strength is not destroyed, since in the midst of the sinking that follows the most stormy crises are suddenly developed the most surprising efforts.

This character joined to the general good colour of the skin sufficiently distinguishes this disease from typhus fever the effect of deleterious miasma.

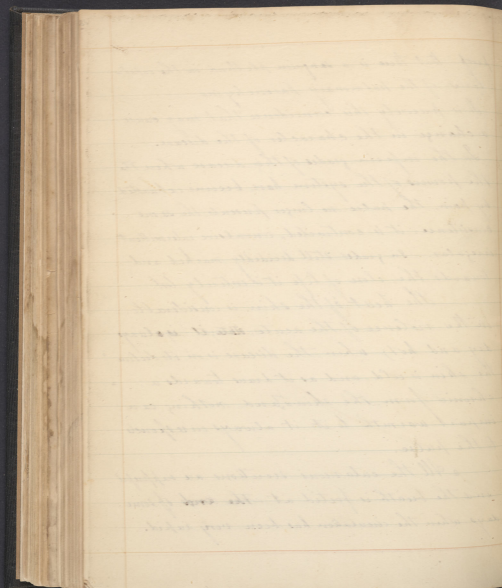
2nd With respect to the function of respiration there is oftentimes observed a cough arising by spells, accompanied with an acute lancing pain; an expectoration of clear mucus, frothy, mixed with streaks of blood, a white and opaque as that of catarrhs of the greatest intensity and pneumonies at the period of their resolution; a general pain of the Thorax also exists, referred



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especially to it, but also to the region of the pylorus, in a word
to all those parts where the pectoral organs correspond to
the same points as the stomach, and in large and
sanguine subjects the respiration is hurried and laboured.
Aphonia or palsy of the tongue is not uncommon
and arises from the pain or uneasiness of the stomach
that sympathetically paralyzes the modulating
muscles of the voice.

Such are the sympathetic lesions that
the inflammation of the stomach carries into
the function of respiration. Their symptoms
have no other consequence than as connected
with those which immediately spring from
the diseased organs.

3rd Respecting the circulation and
secretions we find in the commencement of
gastritis, the pulse to be full, hard, ~~small~~ and
often as large as it would be in perfect ~~breunaria~~
especially if the pectoral symptoms just mentioned
are met with, because these symptoms are a



proof, that there is a sanguine plethora in the capillaries of the pulmonary parenchyma

It is precisely this coincidence that may cause a change in the character of the disease.

In the inferior grades of this disease when the powers of the system have become exhausted by pain, the pulse no longer presents the same consistence: it is contracted, convulsive intermittent irregular. In grades still decidedly marked and towards the close of life it is entirely lost.

The heat of the skin is considerable in the violence of the acute state; it is always dry and hot; when the disease is on its decline the skin is cold and as it draws towards a chronic form, the skin is cold and nothing can impart warmth to it: it always corresponds to the pulse.

All the cutaneous secretions are suppressed and the breath is foetid at the end of some days when the circulation has been very rapid.

the things that the last time you have
most beautiful can also be made
in a day. The first and in many cases
most beautiful must be made with
great care and attention.
The second time you are allowed
to be a little more at liberty
in the way of a very important
thing to be done with great
care and the best possible
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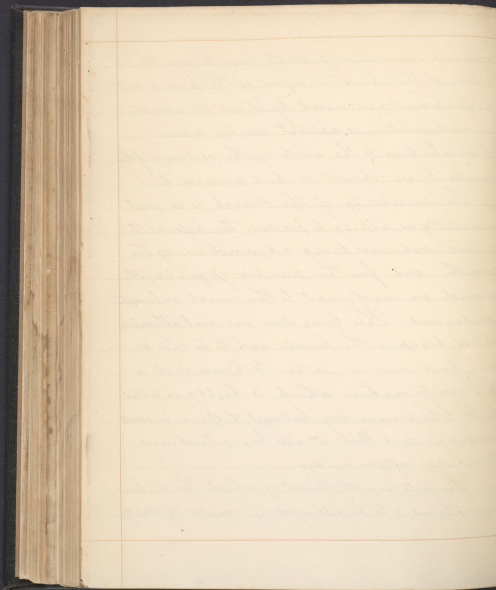
In laying down the treatment of any disease general principles can alone be commensurated in an essay like this, and in every case certain innovations must necessarily occur which require judgement experience and observation.

The indications of case are extremely obvious having to contend with an active inflammation of a very important organ; one that may be said with great propriety to preside over the different functions of the animal economy for when this becomes diseased the whole system appears to participate in its deranged action.

It will therefore be necessary, in the proper management of this disease to attempt the cure by copious and repeated bloodletting, nor should we be intimidated by the smallness of the pulse. After having made use of this we then resort as a kind of substitute to leeches and cups, applied over the epigastric region or leeching from the hemorrhoidal

vessels which situation is preferred by Dr Jackson of this city for which practice a sound anatomical explanation may be given. In the generality of authors we find them recommending small and repeated bleedings, but such practice is to be considered as injudicious; as it is to be recollected that the pulse ~~is~~ no guide for us for by detracting blood copiously we unfold the powers of the system and the pulse becomes softer and fuller, the remedy acting somewhat like our stimulant remedies in low states of disease.

It is one of the features of this inflammation that the vigour of the whole ~~constitution~~ and particularly the circulatory, appears to be depressed, being termed by the late Dr Rush in a state of suffocated excitement. The next remedies in point of importance are the visicating applications and certainly there can be no difficulty in deciding where they should be applied. The Stomach being the primary seat of the disease; ~~they~~ - ~~in~~ they should be put on immediately over that



organ, and should be sufficiently large to cover the whole of the epigastric region, as the pain is not proportionally increased by it and the advantages are much greater: as a potent remedy warm fomentations to the whole of the abdomen if they can be borne, should be had recourse to.

The irritability of the stomach is so great generally as utterly to preclude the possibility of any medicines being administered by the mouth, and for the purpose of quieting the stomach we must resort to the usual antiemetic medicines. This being done our next attempts should be to open the bowels and to do this we may have recourse either to Epsom Salts or to a combination which is highly extolled by Dr Chapman viz Calomel & Opium in small doses who says that it also has a tendency to reduce inflammation.

The intolerable thirst of which the patients complain is to be allayed by means of slop

acidulated drinks; and what has been found
much Superior by Dr Chishman is milk in small
quantities and frequently repeated.

In the sinking stage where we suspect
a disposition ⁱⁿ the disease to run into gangrene
we must administer opium and Spts. of
Turpentine freely which have sometimes
been known to arrest it in the incipient
stage but generally all our endeavours
are unavailing and death closes the scene.

F. Picklen
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